



— PROJECT SERPO —  
PUBLIC ACCLIMATION OR  
DECEPTION PROGRAM?

by Michael E. Salla, PhD © 2006

In February 2006, the US-published *UFO Magazine* released an edition that focused on Project Serpo, an alleged alien exchange program that lasted from 1965 to 1978 and involved 12 US military personnel who travelled to a planet called Serpo in the Zeta Reticuli binary constellation. *UFO Magazine* published a number of statements by some of the key figures involved in this unfolding case.

Among these statements was one by Richard Doty, a former special agent assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), concerning what he directly experienced during his military service and how this corroborated parts of the Project Serpo story. Doty is among a group of former "insiders", with access to classified information on UFOs, who have come forward to confirm parts of this alleged alien exchange program leaked by up to three anonymous Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) personnel (see website <http://www.serpo.org>).

Doty is the most prominent of these former insiders due to widespread public knowledge of his former position as an

AFOSI "special agent" assigned to deal with UFO reports from 1979 to 1988.

Doty's testimony is most revealing since much of it is based on a number of first-hand experiences concerning classified information, as opposed to the hearsay testimonies of others. Hearsay testimony is easy to manipulate in the hands of skilled intelligence agents participating in an officially sanctioned "deception program" aimed at misleading researchers, witnesses and the general public over UFOs. Direct personal testimony of classified information directly experienced is far more difficult to manipulate, especially when published in print by an individual such as Doty whose background and credentials are well known. Written statements on what an individual has directly experienced can be checked and any inconsistencies can be found.

Consequently, it is useful to examine closely Doty's claims concerning his personal experiences while responsible for gathering UFO information as an AFOSI special agent, and the extent to which this lends credence to the Project Serpo information. Doty may be participating in an officially sanctioned "acclimation program" to inform a sceptical public of UFO-related information, or in an elaborate "deception program" designed to mislead the general public and researchers.

Doty began his US Air Force career in 1968, first training for the Air Force Security Police and later moving on to other security-related positions. He joined AFOSI in 1979 and retired in 1988. Both his father (Charles Doty) and uncle (Ed Doty) reached the rank of Colonel in the Air Force, and both were involved in investigating UFO reports and were stationed with the 7602nd Air Intelligence Group (*Exempt from Disclosure*, p. 118).

Richard Doty reached the rank of Master Sergeant and upon retirement began a new career as a State Trooper in New Mexico. He more recently finished law school and completed the New Mexico State Bar Exam.

Doty co-authored with Robert Collins *Exempt from Disclosure*, a book published in early 2005 [Peregrine Communications]. In it, Doty describes a number of first-hand experiences such as witnessing a large flying saucer at a classified Indian Springs facility in 1969 (p. 67).

More significantly, Doty claims that he was given access to a highly classified report that contained much UFO-related information concerning extraterrestrial biological entities (EBEs), their communication system and advanced technology (p. 70).

Doty further claims that in 1983 he had a face-to-face meeting at a secure facility in Los Alamos, New Mexico, with an

extraterrestrial biological entity, called EBE-2, from the constellation Zeta Reticuli:

*About five minutes later, in walks a 4'9" non-human-looking creature. It was dressed in a tight-fitting cream-coloured suit. It had no hair and was identified to me as EBE-2. EBE-2 sat in a chair across the table from two civilians and the AF Colonel... I listened while the three asked EBE-2 a series of questions pertaining to its home planet.* (p. 154)

These are all first-person experiences by Doty concerning classified UFO-related information rather than hearsay. Thus they are significant, given Doty's former position as an intelligence agent assigned to UFO investigations. His involvement in UFO investigations has been documented through his signature on official AFOSI complaint forms dating from 1980 (see website [http://www.nicap.org/foia\\_003.htm](http://www.nicap.org/foia_003.htm)).

In his statement published in *UFO Magazine*, Doty makes claims supporting the validity of the Project *Serpo* information despite a number of anomalies pointed out by critics. He claims that when he started his service at AFOSI, he was briefed on a compartmented program involving EBEs and alien crashes near Corona and Datil, New Mexico.

In *Exempt from Disclosure*, he describes an alien captured in one of these crashes: EBE-1, from the planet Sieu in the constellation Zeta Reticuli, who was in military custody from 1947 until its death in 1952 (p. 70).

Doty claims in his statement that in 1984 he was given another briefing where he read a document that "mentioned an exchange program between an alien race and twelve US military personnel" that lasted from 1965 to 1978. He claims he didn't see the details of this classified project but knew of its existence.

Doty's statements and chapters from *Exempt from Disclosure* describing his personal experiences with flying saucers, EBEs and classified UFO briefing documents are startling revelations for a former AFOSI special agent.

The information Doty disclosed was, by his own admission, highly classified and compartmented back in 1984, and certainly is still highly classified today.

So why would former special agent Doty reveal such classified, compartmented information, and how accurate is it?

## Doty and disinformation

Most UFO researchers aware of Richard Doty know of the unscrupulous role he played in UFO cases involving Paul Bennewitz and Linda Moulton Howe in the 1980s. Doty actively disseminated disinformation to throw these two researchers off the track in their respective UFO investigations.

Doty was complicit in the emotional and psychological breakdown of Paul Bennewitz, who had befriended and trusted Doty who was disseminating disinformation to discredit Bennewitz (see web page <http://www.greatdreams.com/Falcon-Richard-Doty.htm>).

**So why would former special agent Doty reveal such classified, compartmented information, and how accurate is it?**

Furthermore, Howe witnessed the cancellation of a proposed HBO special on UFOs due to delays in the release of historical film footage that Doty assured Howe was forthcoming. Doty has publicly said that he regrets the actions he performed, but pointed out in his defence that he was under orders and was simply doing his job.

In *Exempt from Disclosure*, he describes the nature of his work as follows:

*I was also briefed into another very special (third) program that dealt with safeguarding the Air Force's high technology programs. Among the methods used to safeguard these programs was "disinformation".*

(p. 70)

Consequently, Doty has verified that the US Air Force disseminates disinformation to UFO researchers who get too close to the truth behind UFOs, and that he actively played a role in this.

Also in the book, Doty states that he disagrees with the official secrecy policy and that he believes the public has a right to know about UFOs. Presumably he is now disseminating the kind of UFO information that earlier it was his job to discredit through

officially sanctioned deception programs when serving in AFOSI.

The obvious question is whether a former intelligence agent who actively participated in deception programs during his military service continues such a role in private life. More to the point, is Doty contributing to a new deception program in the form of Project *Serpo*, or is he releasing information in accord with his conscience? The fact that *Exempt from Disclosure* was published in 2005, shortly before the release of the Project *Serpo* material in November 2005, points to a synchronicity that may be entirely fortuitous or it may be part of a scheduled release of information in a deception program.

Doty describes an officially sanctioned deception program as follows:

*The government can keep a secret this long by a number of means. One being compartmenting the data within the government, or the intelligence community, or they can run deception operations, deceiving the public, or deceiving private UFO groups. They present the groups with faulty information, unbelievable data, which in turn the groups publish, and are then ridiculed. That misinforms the public, and keeps the government information compartmentalized and protected.*

(p. 86)

In his statement to *UFO Magazine*, Doty mentions a Colonel Jack Casey, a retired Air Force Intelligence officer. Doty claims that Casey personally confirmed the Project *Serpo* information concerning an alien exchange program.

Casey claimed that in "1965, twelve US military men were placed on an extraterrestrial spacecraft and flew to an alien planet some 40 light years away". Casey further claimed that the briefing provided by the eight personnel who returned in 1978 is still classified, and that all are now dead.

Here, Doty is relating hearsay testimony which he did not personally learn from direct experiences or classified documents.

Much of the information released by Doty in *Exempt from Disclosure* and his statement to *UFO Magazine* is based on direct personal experiences of "flying saucers", EBEs or classified briefing documents. This body of claims needs to be considered seriously, given Doty's documented background as an AFOSI special agent

responsible for UFO investigations.

At the same time, there are many claims based on second- or third-party stories which are hearsay and require independent corroboration before accepting. These latter claims could be part of an acclimation program based on "plausible deniability". Alternatively, these claims based on hearsay could be part of a deception program, since the latter individuals are not able or willing to come forward to confirm their testimonies publicly.

A significant fact concerning Richard Doty and his recent emergence is that he at no time has reported any harassment, intimidation or threat as a consequence of his revelations. This is quite remarkable, given that he is revealing highly classified, compartmented information on topics that appear far more sensitive than what has been released by other whistleblowers who report having been threatened for their revelations.

For instance, John Maynard, a former Defense Intelligence Agency analyst, has reported a number of threats for releasing far less information than what Doty has revealed about compartmented programs involving EBEs (see web page <http://www.surfingtheapocalypse.com/maynard.html>).

This suggests that Doty has gained a "green light" to come forward with his testimony in a possible effort to "acclimate" the public for future disclosure of the extraterrestrial presence.

However, due to Doty's former career in AFOSI and professional involvement in deception programs, it is also possible that Doty is participating in an elaborate deception program with his claims that give remarkable support to the Project *Serpo* material.

Something that is suggestive of such a possibility is his repudiation of some passages he authored in *Exempt from Disclosure*, describing his face-to-face meeting with EBE-2.

In a later "clarification", Doty claims that he viewed the alleged meeting involving EBE-2 on a video screen and was not in the same room after all (see web page <http://www.serpo.org/consistencies.html>).

This turnaround—where Doty makes some astounding claims regarding his EBE-related experiences, approves the publication of these in print and then repudiates some important details—suggests his testimony is unreliable.

Doty may therefore be participating in a deception program.

Nevertheless, given the first-hand experiences Doty has revealed and his well-documented former career, it is very important to consider seriously what he personally claims to have experienced or read in terms of classified information.

Consequently, it can be concluded that Doty's written testimony of what he saw and read concerning classified UFO/EBE-related projects is plausible, though his tendency to repudiate critical details makes him unreliable.

Furthermore his claims, based on what he was told by other military personnel, need to be regarded as hearsay and not sufficient to corroborate the Project *Serpo* material.

A third possibility—that Doty is a genuine whistleblower, following his conscience in the release of classified information—is extremely unlikely, in the author's view. Doty's military history, the quality of the information he has released, his ability to escape any form of harassment and his repudiation of key details of earlier statements suggest that he is participating in either an officially sanctioned acclimation program or a deception program.

Consequently, I will focus on these latter two possibilities with regard to the *Serpo* project and Doty's role in it.

### Testimony from other insiders

It is now worth examining the testimonies of some of the other main players in the unfolding *Serpo* information.

Two prominent insiders involved in confirming the *Serpo* story and who are

most often cited are Gene Lakes (aka Gene Loscowski) and Paul McGovern. Lakes worked for the DIA from 1964 to 1996 as an investigator and then as director of security operations (see [http://www.ufoconspiracy.com/reports/tom\\_mack\\_groomlake.htm](http://www.ufoconspiracy.com/reports/tom_mack_groomlake.htm)). According to Doty's statement, Paul McGovern was a "former security chief for the Defense Intelligence Agency".

Both Lakes and McGovern claim to have had access during their respective military careers to a briefing document titled "Project *Serpo*", which discussed the alien exchange program. Indeed, McGovern supplies the classification number of the briefing document to which they had access (see <http://www.serpo.org/information.html#1>). Because both McGovern and Lakes claim to have gained their information from the alleged briefing document, this is important evidence supporting the existence of the *Serpo* project.

After reflecting on the initial email from Anonymous describing Project *Serpo*, Lakes/Loscowski wrote:

*Most of the information is absolutely correct... To the best of my knowledge, we had 12 men, all military men. Eight USAF, two Army and two Navy guys. I think the females are a red herring. But maybe I just didn't have the clearance for that... Only eight came back, that much is right. Two died a few years into their assignment on the Visitors' planet. Two others decided to remain and maybe are still alive today. Since their return, all have died.*



"Yeah, tell Maintenance to turn up the monoxide on the aircon."

(See web page <http://www.serpo.org/information.html#1>.)

McGovern responded similarly:  
*Interesting but not totally correct [commenting on Anonymous's original email]. As for the exchange program: Unauthorized Release of Classified Information, as I see it. But maybe someone currently within our government wants it out. No females were sent. Twelve men, all military: 8 USAF, 2 US Army and 2 US Navy. Two were doctors; three were scientists; two were language specialists; two were security personnel; two were pilots and one was the leader (Colonel-AF).*

(See <http://www.serpo.org/information.html#1>.)

Both McGovern and Lakes confirm vital aspects of the program, i.e., it involved 12 male military personnel who travelled to the planet Serpo and lived on Serpo for over a decade, but only eight of them returned to Earth.

McGovern and Lakes, along with Richard Doty, are the only individuals who have come forward publicly to confirm the truth of Project Serpo in terms of what they have read in classified briefing documents.

In addition, there is the hearsay testimony of three others who claim to have learned about Project Serpo through classified documents. One is Colonel Jack Casey, who confirmed the Serpo case with Richard Doty. Another is an anonymous retired Colonel of 30 years' service, who revealed to a serving Lt Col, known only to Bill Ryan (webmaster of the Project Serpo website), that the Project Serpo information is true. The third is Ed Doty, who allegedly confirmed various aspects of the Project Serpo story.

So far, none of these individuals has, or is able to, come forward to confirm publicly what has been ascribed to them or to answer questions.

In addition to these insiders' revelations, there are the claims attributed to researchers such as Whitley Strieber and Linda Moulton Howe, both of whom have heard hearsay testimony confirming various aspects of Project Serpo.

Finally, there are the two or three anonymous DIA sources responsible for the initial disclosures of Project Serpo, but their credentials and credibility cannot be checked.

Consequently, the strongest support for the Project Serpo story comes from the three individuals who have publicly stated that they learned about it through classified briefing documents: Richard Doty, Paul McGovern and Gene Lakes. All three are former intelligence officials, as are the three others whose hearsay testimony has been attributed to them: Doty's Colonel Jack Casey, Ryan's anonymous Colonel and Ed Doty. Consequently, it is possible to conclude that all may have been co-opted into a covert acclimation program or deception program.

**Project Serpo may be an officially sanctioned acclimation program or deception program orchestrated by the US Defense Intelligence Agency.**

### **Anomalies and inconsistencies**

My overall conclusion is that Doty's statement to *UFO Magazine* gives the Project Serpo information a boost insofar as he confirms the core story of an alien exchange program that was described in a classified briefing document. Doty's documented involvement in UFO investigations makes his testimony significant, although his ability to repudiate statements he has authored does give some concern about the reliability of his testimony.

Project Serpo is also supported in the testimonies of McGovern and Lakes, who apparently also learned of it through classified briefing documents. Nevertheless, their respective careers with the DIA and the DIA affiliations of the two or three anonymous sources responsible for the Project Serpo information do raise the possibility that they are part of a DIA-orchestrated deception program.

Despite support for the core story of Serpo from three former insiders who have publicly emerged to confirm its truth based on classified briefing documents, there are many questionable details that raise considerable doubt about the veracity of the Project Serpo material.

Details such as the alleged flight logs, scientific information about Serpo and its binary star system that involves numerous inconsistencies, the anonymous nature of the leaked information and other inconsistencies have raised much scepticism about the material. For example, in my own analysis of the alleged flight logs detailing alleged communications between the EBEs and the human team, I found a number of anomalies that suggest the logs are fictitious (see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/exopolitics/message/274>).

Given the number of insiders who have come forward to support Serpo and/or have communicated anonymously with researchers to confirm Project Serpo, this is a story that has the potential either to "inform" or to "disinform" a great number of people about covert government projects involving EBEs. In short, Project Serpo may be an officially sanctioned acclimation program or deception program orchestrated by the US Defense Intelligence Agency.

A third possibility is that Project Serpo is an acclimation program designed to inform us partially about an alleged alien exchange program while sowing disinformation to mislead UFO/exopolitics researchers and the general public who support the ongoing disclosures concerning an alleged planet Serpo, which briefly housed 12 military personnel from 1965 to 1978 in an EBE exchange program.

### **Editor's Notes:**

This article was first published as "Exopolitical Comment #41 – Richard Doty and Project Serpo: 'Public Acclimation' or 'Deception Program'?" by Michael E. Salla, PhD © February 18, 2006. Dr Salla's paper titled "Using Space Weapons Against ET Civilisations" was published in our previous issue. For more information, visit Dr Salla's websites <http://www.exopolitics.org> and [drsalla@exopolitics.org](mailto:drsalla@exopolitics.org).

For information on Project Serpo, go to <http://www.serpo.org/>.

For a website critical of Project Serpo, go to <http://www.projectserpo.org>.

For Richard Doty's statement on Project Serpo, published in *UFO Magazine*, go to <http://www.ufoconspiracy.com/reports/rick-doty-serpo.pdf>.

For further statements on Project Serpo by Victor Martinez, Bill Ryan and Bill Birnes, published in *UFO Magazine*, go to <http://lucianarchy.proboards21.com/index.cgi?board=projectserpo>.